

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 IO-13 AID-05 STR-04 EB-08
COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 XMB-02 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /072 W
-----130450Z 043035 /22

R 122050Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 284

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BENC, DR

SUBJ: DOMINICAN REQUEST FOR IDB LOAN FOR TOURIST COMPLEX AT
BOCA CHICA

1. AMBASSADOR, USAID DIRECTOR AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR HAD
OCCASION RECENTLY TO BE BRIEFED ON LATEST DOMINICAN PLANNING FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST COMPLEX AT BOCA CHICA, SOME TEN MINUTES'
DRIVE EAST OF THE LAS AMERICAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SERVING
SANTO DOMINGO. INFRATUR, THE TOURIST ARM OF THE CENTRAL BANK,
HAS BEEN GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT BY
PRESIDENT BALAGUER.

2. BOCA CHICA HAS THE BEACH CLOSEST TO SANTO DOMINGO, PART OF
WHICH IS USED INTENSIVELY ESPECIALLY ON SUNDAYS DURING THE
SUMMER BY DOMINICANS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE LOCAL MORES
ARE THAT, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE ACTUAL TEMPERATURE, WINTER BEGINS
ON OCTOBER 15 AND ENDS ON EASTER SUNDAY. DURING THIS WINTER
PERIOD THE WATER AND ARE ARE CONSIDERED TOO COLD FOR BATHING
AND THEREFORE ONLY A RELATIVELY FEW DOMINICANS USE THE BEACHES
DURING THIS PERIOD. THIS IS, OF COURSE, THE TIME OF YEAR THAT
TOURISTS, MOSTLY AMERICANS, VISIT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

3. INFRATUR'S PROJECT FOR BOCA CHICA INVOLVES FURTHER DEVELOP-

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MENT OF THE BOCA CHICA AREA, INCLUDING BUILDING UP THE EXISTING
BEACHES SO THAT IN EFFECT TWO PRINCIPAL BEACH AREAS WOULD EXIST:
ONE TO ACCOMMODATE THE DOMINICANS WHO FREQUENT THE AREA DURING
THE SUMMER AND THE
OTHER FOR INTERNATIONAL TOURISM. SINCE IT
WOULD NOT BE POLITIC TO SEPARATE THE TWO AREAS BY A PHYSICAL
BARRIER, INFRATUR PLANS MEASURES THAT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE

VIRTUALLY THE SAME EFFECT SUCH AS POPULAR PRICED SOFT DRINKS AND FOOD AT THE DOMINICAN AREA, VERY LOW ADMISSION FEE TO THE BEACH AREA PRIMARILY FOR DOMINICANS AND SITING THE INTERNATIONAL AREA SOME DISTANCE FROM THE BEACH THAT THE DOMINICANS WOULD USE.

4. INFRATUR TOLD US THAT THE MANagements OF BOTH THE NEW AND OLD HOTELS IN SANTO DOMINGO REPORT THAT THERE IS STRONG INTERNATIONAL TOURIST DEMAND FOR BEACHES AND THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO INVEST IN SMALL HOTELS AT BOCA CHICA TO COMPLEMENT THEIR EXISTING HOTELS. INFRATUR ESTIMATES THAT SUCH HOTELS WOULD ACCOMMODATE AN AGGREGATE OF ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS. IN ADDITION, SUFFICIENT LAND HAS BEEN SET ASIDE IN THE "INTERNATIONAL SECTION" FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO LARGE HOTELS, EACH OF WHICH COULD ACCOMMODATE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS INITIALLY, WITH ROOM FOR EXPANSION FOR UP TO FIVE HUNDRED EACH. THE INFRATUR CONCEPT THUS VISUALIZES AN EVENTUAL CAPACITY FOR SOME FIFTEEN HUNDRED INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS, A SUBSTANTIAL SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

5. TOURISM IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EXPERIENCED A REMARKABLE BOOM THIS YEAR, ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN THIRTY PERCENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR. MANAGERS OF THE PRINCIPAL HOTELS THIS YEAR REPORT THAT CONSIDERABLE DEMAND HAD TO BE REFUSED FOR LACK OF SPACE. GOOD RESTAURANTS WHICH LAST YEAR COULD EASILY ACCOMMODATE DEMAND WITHOUT RESERVATIONS WERE UNABLE TO DO SO THIS WINTER. THE TOURISTS RANGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL JET SET (INCLUDING MINOR ROYALTY) AT GULF & WESTERN'S LA ROMANA COMPLEX TO ORDINARY AMERICAN TOURISTS ARRIVING IN PACKAGE DEALS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONVENTIONS. UNDOUBTEDLY, THE SEVERE US WINTER PLAYED A ROLE IN THE PHENOMENAL SPURT IN TOURISM HERE, BUT PROBABLY WAS NOT THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE. THE EXISTENCE OF TWO LARGE NEW HOTELS, THE EXCELLENT PROMOTION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS A TOURIST RESORT IN THE US PRESS, THE HOLDING OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HERE HAVE ALL SERVED TO PLACE THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON THE TOURIST MAP. FOR MANY, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IS BECOMING THE NEW "IN" PLACE. THE MISS UNIVERSE CONTEST, WHICH WILL BE HELD HERE IN JULY AND BROADCAST BY SATELLITE TO AN ESTIMATED FIVE HUNDRED MILLION VIEWERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WILL GIVE ADDED IMPETUS TO TOURISM HERE. IN SHORT, THE FUTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL TOURISM IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IS BRIG .

6. THE COST OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE BOCA CHICA COMPLEX IS ESTIMATED TO BE DOLLARS 22.5 MILLION, OF WHICH TWELVE MILLION ARE SOUGHT FROM THE IDB, THE REMAINDER TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE GODR. IN LIGHT OF THE EXCELLENT POTENTIAL FOR GENERATING FOREIGN EXCHANGE THAT TOURISM IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC REPRESENTS, THE EMBASSY ENDORSES THE GODR REQUEST AND HOPES THAT

THE IDB WILL GIVE THIS MATTER PRIORITY ATTENTION. IN THIS REGARD, TOURISM IN GENERAL AND THE BOCA CHICA PROJECT IN PARTICULAR ARE GIVEN VERY HIGH PRIORITY BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER.

7. SHOULD THE IDB HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT, THE EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO COOPERATE.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEVELOPMENT BANKS, DEVELOPMENT LOANS, TOURISM PROMOTION
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Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTO01727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770127-0572
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770466/aaaacetx.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 103ebda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2831665
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOMINICAN REQUEST FOR IDB LOAN FOR TOURIST COMPLEX AT BOCA CHICA
TAGS: EAID, BENC, DR, IDB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/103ebda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009